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GENERAL STUDIES (TEST CODE : 1839)

Name of Candidate	THARUN PATNAIK MADALA		
Medium Eng./Hindi	ENGLISH	Registration Number	996306
Center	DELHI	Date	10/9/22

INDEX TABLE

Q. No.	Maximum Marks	Marks Obtained
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17	15	
18	15	
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20	15	

Total Marks Obtained:

Remarks:

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Do furnish the appropriate details in the answer sheet (viz. Name, Registration Number and Test Code).
   उत्तर पुस्तिका में सूचनाएं भरना आवश्यक है (नाम, प्रश्न–पत्र कोड, विद्यार्थी क्रमांक आदि)।
2. There are **TWENTY** questions printed in **ENGLISH & HINDI**
   इसमें बीस प्रश्न हैं अंग्रेजी और हिन्दी में छपे हैं।
3. **All questions are compulsory.**
   सभी प्रश्न अनिवार्य हैं।
4. The number of marks carried by a question/part is indicated against it.
   प्रत्येक प्रश्न/भाग के अंक उसके सामने दिए गए हैं।
5. Answers must be written in the medium authorized in the Admission Certificate, which must be stated clearly on the cover of this Question-Cum-Answer (QCA) Booklet in the space provided. No marks will be given for answers written in medium other that the authorized one.
   प्रश्नों के उत्तर उसी माध्यम में लिखे जाने चाहिए जिसका उल्लेख आपके प्रवेश पत्र में किया गया है और उस माध्यम का स्पष्ट उल्लेख प्रश्न–सह–उत्तर (क्यूसीए) पुस्तिका के मुख्य पृष्ठ पर अंकित निर्दिष्ट स्थान पर किया जाना चाहिए। उल्लिखित माध्यम के अतिरिक्त अन्य किसी माध्यम में लिए गए उत्तर पर कोई अंक नहीं मिलेंगे।
6. Word limit in questions, if specified, should be adhered to.
   प्रश्नों में शब्द सीमा, जहाँ विनिर्दिष्ट है, का अनुसरण किया जाना चाहिए।
7. Any page or portion of the page left blank in the Question-Cum-Answer Booklet must be clearly struck off.
   उत्तर पुस्तिका में खाली छोड़ा हुआ पृष्ठ या उसके अंश को स्पष्ट रूप से काटा जाना चाहिए।

EVALUATION INDICATORS

1. Contextual Competence
2. Content Competence
3. Language Competence
4. Introduction Competence
5. Structure - Presentation Competence
6. Conclusion Competence

Overall Macro Comments / feedback / suggestions on Answer Booklet:

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

All the Best

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1. An independent umbrella body that brings the various central investigative agencies under one roof holds the key to shoring up their credibility. Discuss. (150 words) 10

एक स्वतंत्र अम्ब्रेला निकाय जो विभिन्न केंद्रीय जांच एजेंसियों को एक छत के नीचे लाता हो, उनकी विश्वसनीयता को बढ़ाने की कुंजी है। विवेचना कीजिए।

Central investigative bodies like CBI, ED have faced many accusations such as political targeting etc. which calls for the need of an umbrella body.

Shore up their credibility:

① Accountability: An umbrella body will infuse accountability to these bodies

② Autonomy: Having an umbrella body will give ~~ot~~ autonomy to the working of these bodies.

③ Professionalism: An umbrella body will induce professionalism in the ~~co~~ working of these bodies

④ Free from arbitrary appointments: These bodies will be free from heads being

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appointed in an arbitary and partial manner.

⑤ Coordination: Co-ordination between different bodies is impossible through having an umbrella body.

⑥ Free from political influence: Having an umbrella body will shield these bodies from political influence

⑦ Realising objectives: Investigative bodies will truly work towards achieving their objectives instead of CBI handling many crime cases and delaying corruption cases

⑧ Fair enquiry: Having an umbrella body will prompt these bodies have a fair and impartial enquiry

Umbrella body will work well only if the body itself is free from political interference.

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2. Discuss the significance of the Doctrines of Pith and Substance and Colourable Legislation with respect to Centre-state relations in India.
(150 words) 10

भारत में केंद्र-राज्य संबंधों के संदर्भ में तत्व एवं सार के सिद्धांत और छद्म (आभासी) विधायन के सिद्धांत के महत्व की विवेचना कीजिए।

These doctrines are used by the judicial bodies to study whether one authority is overarching or encroaching over powers of other authority.

Importance of doctrine of pith & Substance

It states that if a legislature involuntarily encroaches the powers of other without the objective of act being the encroachment then it won't, ipso facto, be called 'ultra vires'

(i) This doctrine promotes co-operative federalism in an assymetric state like India

(ii) This doctrine offers for smooth passage of law without legal complexities getting in between

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(iii) This doctrine allows Parliament and State legislature freedom to enact certain legislations without creating any technical hurdles.

Importance of Colourable Legislations

It states that a legislature can't do indirectly what it can't do directly.

(i) This doctrine preserves the federal principle and empowers states from encroachment of Parliament.

(ii) It gives constitutionally granted federal autonomy to the states

(iii) It gives freedom to states to assert their autonomy in legislative work

The two ~~legislations~~ doctrines ensure that the federal mechanisms of India are running smooth.

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3. Do you agree with the view that there should be simultaneous elections to the Lok Sabha and the State Legislative Assemblies in India? Discuss with suitable arguments. **(150 words) 10**
क्या आप इस विचार से सहमत हैं कि भारत में लोक सभा और राज्य विधान सभाओं के निर्वाचन एक साथ होने चाहिए? उपयुक्त तर्कों के साथ चर्चा कीजिए।

Simultaneous elections have been in news due to many voices supporting them to save time and money. I DON'T agree that India should have simultaneous elections.

Advantages of simultaneous election:

① Save money and time
② Governments are not bound by regular model code of conduct (MCC)
③ Ease pressure off Election Commission (EC) because rolls, nominations are done only once.

Disadvantages of simultaneous elections:

① State issues ignored: National issues might dominate state, regional issues leading to loss for regional parties
② Incompatible with Parliamentary form,

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Parliamentary form of governments do not have fixed tenure and hence some governments might end before tenure.

③ Lack of clarity: There is no clarity on what happens when there is bye-election or hung assembly

④ Lack of consensus: There is no concensus to bring a constitutional amendment to curtail or extend tenures of governments.

⑤ No regular accountability: Politicians will not be regularly held accountable making them lenient.

With the current political structure, it may not be pragmatic to have simultaneous elections. If we did, we need to ensure proper guidelines in case of hung assemblies or collapsed governments.

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4. Discuss the need for codification of parliamentary privileges in India, in light of the uncertainty and ambiguity around them. **(150 words) 10**
भारत में संसदीय विशेषाधिकारों के बारे में अनिश्चितता और अस्पष्टता के आलोक में, उनके संहिताकरण की आवश्यकता पर चर्चा कीजिए।

Parliamentary privileges are the privileges given to members of parliament to protect legislative freedom.

Need to Codify :

① Prevent misuse : Parliamentary privileges can be misused given their powerful nature and hence must be codified.
Eg. An anchor was arrested for breach of privilege because he critiised the CM

② Reduce arbitrariness : Reduce the vague wording in the Constitution and institute clear-cut robust principled privileges.

③ Reduce discretion : By codifying, the discretion given to speaker is

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reduced, if not eliminated. This will ensure prevalence of rule of law.

④ Protect legislative freedom: Protect the freedom of speech, conduct of legislators from being booked for breach of privileges.

⑤ Ensure equal treatment: Codifying privileges will give equal treatment to all the legislators across the country both in Parliament and state legislatures.

⑥ Ensure proper enforcement: Codifying will ensure proper and just enforcement of parliamentary privileges.

Codifying any sort of privileges is essential to uphold rule of law in a demoracy and reduce the discretion in decision-making.

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5. While the Civil Services Board can be a step forward in making the Indian bureaucracy more effective, it has its own issues which need to be addressed. Analyse. **(150 words) 10**

हालांकि, सिविल सेवा बोर्ड भारतीय नौकरशाही को और अधिक प्रभावी बनाने की दिशा में एक अग्रणी कदम हो सकता है, लेकिन इसके अपने मुद्दे हैं जिन्हें हल करने की आवश्यकता है। विश्लेषण कीजिए।

Civil Services Board is the apex body of civil services (All India Services and Group 'A' Services) to take care of postings, transfers etc.

Making bureaucracy effective:

① Transparency: Civil Services Board (CSB) will ensure transparency in the decision making at the highest level

② Objectivity: CSB will ensure objective decision making in case of transfers, deputations etc.

③ Reward good officials: CSB will reward good officials due to role-based decision making

④ Less political interference: CSB will reduce the political interference in the affairs

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of civil services thus making it impartial and honest.

Own issues:

① Collusive corruption: CSB will not be able to act freely when members itself engage in collusive corruption

② Political influence: Even the highest body may not be immune from political influence reducing its independence.

③ Lack of autonomy: Autonomy of working of CSB is lacking resulting in mostly partial decision making.

④ Only a rubber stamp: Often CSB is accused to be a 'rubber stamp' of decisions already made.

CSB can be a powerful tool to reform bureaucracy only if it is independent in working.

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6. Highlight the potential of India Digital Ecosystem Architecture (IndEA) 2.0 in transforming the ecosystem of service delivery in India. **(150 words) 10**
भारत में सेवा वितरण के पारितंत्र को रूपांतरित करने में इंडिया डिजिटल इकोसिस्टम आर्किटेक्चर (IndEA) 2.0 की क्षमता पर प्रकाश डालिए।

India Digital Ecosystem Architecture (IndEA) 2.0 aims to reform the service delivery in India with disruptive interventions.

Transform ecosystem of service delivery

① Transparency: IndEA 2.0 ensure transparent service delivery thus preventing any leakages.

② Open systems: IndEA 2.0 focuses on open systems to cater to needs of all persons.

③ Digital inclusion: It focuses on having thorough digital inclusivity in both urban and rural areas

④ Leverage disruptive technologies: IndEA 2.0 focuses on leveraging upon disruptive innovations like blockchain to provide

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leak-proof service delivery.

Eg. Blockchain can be used to prevent leakages in PDS chain.

⑤ Last mile delivery: Digital technologies make it possible to have last mile delivery to remotest of places

⑥ Accountability: IndEA 2.0 has accountability as its main aim. With digital technologies it can focus on openness and question the official on service delivery.

⑦ Eliminate exclusion errors: With right technologies exclusion error can be eliminated and everyone get the benefit.

IndEA 2.0 has the potential to be the game changer in the service delivery ecosystem by strengthening the governance principles.

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7. What is Civil Registration System? Highlight its importance and discuss the measures taken by the government to bring about improvements in it. **(150 words) 10**

नागरिक पंजीकरण प्रणाली क्या है? इसके महत्व पर प्रकाश डालिए और इसमें सुधार करने के लिए सरकार द्वारा किए गए उपायों पर चर्चा कीजिए।

Civil Registration System (CRS) is the system which registers the births and deaths of people in India.

Importance :

① Demographic data : CRS gives data of demography which helps in designing of relevant schemes.

② Regional targeting : CRS gives scope for find regions with high IMR, MMR and undertake region-specific initiatives.

③ Record of citizens : CRS can simplify the provision of birth certificates, death certificates and maintain fool-proof record of citizens.

④ Making compliance easier : Having CRS will

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make compliance for hospitals and crematoriums easier.

Measures taken:

(i) Entire CRS has been digitized. This ensures that records of citizens are maintained in tamper-proof manner.

(ii) States like Kerala have reached 100% registration of citizen births and deaths.

(iii) Government released guidelines on billing CRS to local bodies who carry out these activities.

CRS is an essential system to keep stock of nation's demography and track the births, deaths of citizens, region wise. This will give good data for policy interventions.

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8. The Prohibition of Employment as Manual Scavengers and Their Rehabilitation Act, 2013, provides an effective mechanism for empowerment of the intended beneficiaries in the society. Critically discuss. **(150 words) 10**

हाथ से मैला उठाने वाले कर्मियों के नियोजन का प्रतिषेध एवं उनका पुनर्वास अधिनियम, 2013 समाज में इच्छित लाभार्थियों के सशक्तीकरण के लिए एक प्रभावी तंत्र प्रदान करता है। समालोचनात्मक चर्चा कीजिए।

Manual scavengers are those people who are, de facto, forced to undertake scavenging of cess pits, bathrooms etc. manually owing to their caste.

Effective mechanism:

① Prohibition: This act considers forcing manual scavenging a crime and atrocity against caste.

② Remuneration: Safai Karmacharis are provided remuneration in the period of their rehabilitation

③ Alternative livelihood: Safai Karmacharis are provided means for alternate livelihood.

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Lacunae in the Acts:

① No social change: These acts couldn't prevent the practice which is still continuing in rural areas

② No rehabilitation effectively: Alternate livelihoods and rehabilitation are very ineffective leading to return of these people to manual scavenging

③ Lack of sustainable skilling: These Acts fall short of imparting long-term, sustainable skilling in Safai Karmacharis.

④ Meagre monetary support: The monetary relief received is very less and doesn't allow for paradigm shift in their lives.

It is essential to take true rehabilitation in order to bring behavioural change in the society.

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9. Discuss the reforms that must be undertaken to strengthen the World Trade Organisation in order to address the vulnerabilities in the present global trading system. (150 words) 10

वर्तमान वैश्विक व्यापार प्रणाली में विद्यमान कमियों को दूर करने के लिए विश्व व्यापार संगठन को सुदृढ़ करने हेतु उस पर किए जाने वाले सुधारों की विवेचना कीजिए।

World Trade Organisation (WTO) is the body which seeks to liberalise world trade without affecting any section of countries.

Vulnerabilities in present system

① Lack of consensus: There is lack of any consensus among developing and developed countries on how to proceed to liberalise trade.

② Temporary agreements: Agricultural agreement is currently temporary and ad hoc arrangement.

③ Ineffective meetings: Meetings of ministers have been ineffective and result in no forward solution

④ Hegemony of developed countries: It is

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visible during discussions on subsidies, especially in fishing, agriculture.

Reforms needed :

① Representative : WTO ~~should~~ should be made ~~much~~ much more representative than it currently is.

② Define developed countries: Instead of self identification, WTO must have clear definition of developed countries.

③ Regular discussions : Ministerial meetings must be regular with a clear agenda and goal

WTO reforms are essential to realise the true potential of trade among countries. The reforms must be oriented towards the problems of developing and least developed countries.

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10. State the significance of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS). Also, discuss the need for a legally binding Marine Biodiversity of Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ) agreement.

(150 words) 10

संयुक्त राष्ट्र समुद्री कानून संधि (UNCLOS) के महत्व का उल्लेख कीजिए। साथ ही, कानूनी रूप से बाध्यकारी राष्ट्रीय अधिकार से परे क्षेत्रों की समुद्री जैव विविधता (BBNJ) समझौते की आवश्यकता पर चर्चा कीजिए।

UNCLOS provides international law over high seas and oceans thus instituting laws over lawless area.

Significance

(i) UNCLOS gives objectivity to claims of boundaries of countries in oceans.

(ii) UNCLOS gives zones where countries can enforce laws, exploit economic minerals etc.

(iii) UNCLOS institutes international order on high seas to curb over-exploitation, disputes between countries.

(iv) UNCLOS gives directions for sustainable economic exploitation of ocean floor.

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Need for BBNJ :

① Protect sensitive ecosystems: Sensitive ecosystems know no national boundaries. Hence, BBNJ is needed to protect them.

② Preserve biodiversity at high seas: Bottom trawling causes huge loss to biodiversity in high seas. BBNJ are needed to preserve them.

③ Protect wealth of fish: Having BBNJ will prevent illegal, unregulated fishing and will help restoration of ocean communities.

④ Prevent pollution: BBNJ will prevent the international waters from getting polluted

BBNJ will induce international efforts in protecting marine diversity.

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11. Critically assess the role played by the National Human Rights Commission as a watchdog of human rights violations in India. **(250 words) 15**
भारत में मानवाधिकारों के उल्लंघन के प्रहरी के रूप में राष्ट्रीय मानवाधिकार आयोग द्वारा निभाई गई भूमिका का समालोचनात्मक मूल्यांकन कीजिए।

National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) is a statutory body that serves as watchdog to the human rights violations in the country.

Active role played by NHRC :

(i) NHRC enjoys powers of civil court in order to probe violations of human rights.

(ii) NHRC has been crucial in attending the situations of human rights violations quickly.

(ii) NHRC can recommend compensation to be paid to the victim that is disbursed almost immediately.

(iii) NHRC acts against human trafficking etc. by making recommendations

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to the government to fight these crimes in the society.

Ineffective role of NHRC:

① Recommendatory body: NHRC is largely recommendatory body with no powers of enforcing its recommendations.

② Huge pendency: There is a large pendency of cases in NHRC that is making its work ineffective.

③ Lack of adequate staff: There is acute shortage of staff in NHRC when looked in the perspective of cases handled.

④ Lack of capacity: The staff capacity of NHRC is very low resulting in huge inefficiency in working of commission

⑤ No regular meetings: Regular meetings have not been mandated resulting in

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irregular meeting and working of the commission

⑥ lack of active mobilisation : Even in cases of obvious violations, the action has not been swift and effective.
Eg. NHRC action in Telangana alleged fake encounter case

⑦ lack of regular Parliamentary scrutiny: There is a lack of ~~regular~~ & regular Parliamentary discussions on NHRC reports which makes its actions unscrutinised.

It is necessary to bring reformed NHRC giving it constitutional status to realise the true objective of achieving human rights properly in India,

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(इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

12. Discuss how the integration of information and communications technology (ICT) in the dispute resolution processes will help in overcoming the challenges associated with the functioning of courts and Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) forums. **(250 words) 15**

विवेचना कीजिए कि विवाद समाधान प्रक्रियाओं में सूचना और संचार प्रौद्योगिकी (ICT) का एकीकरण अदालतों एवं वैकल्पिक विवाद समाधान (ADR) मंचों के कामकाज से जुड़ी चुनौतियों का समाधान करने में किस प्रकार सहायता करेगा।

Use of ICT in dispute resolution is termed as Online Dispute Resolution (ODR) gaining importance especially after COVID-19 impact.

Challenges in courts and ADR:

① Lengthy procedures: Courts and ADR mechanisms have lengthy procedures delaying the verdict.

② Expensive affair: Physical infrastructure and meetings of courts, ADRs are an expensive affair for small players

③ lack of expertise: Often in ADRs, there is a lack of expert opinion and judgement in the verdict.

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④ Inordinate delays : Delays due to physical meetings, deliberations, travel has resulted in prolonged ADR process especially in India

Integrating ICT will overcome challenges :

① Virtual meetings : Virtual proceedings will reduce travel time, meeting time reducing the delays.

② Cheaper option : Travel costs, physical meeting costs are eliminated making ODRs ~~cho~~ cheaper

③ Infusion of expertise : As ODR is flexible, experts from other locations can be engaged leading expertise in decision making.

④ Accessibility : Smaller players from across the country can access ODR that

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makes ODR accessible and reduces the pressure off courts.

⑤ Efficiency: ODR is much more efficient than ADR as many physical delays are cut down resulting in disposal of more cases

⑥ International footprint: ODR allows Indian arbitrators to have international connections and footprint.

⑦ Inclusive: ODR is an inclusive method of dispute resolution that can be used by even smaller players, women alike without any ordeal

Promoting ODR is essential to relieve the pressure off courts and allow for ease of doing business in Indian economy.

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13. Despite various provisions concerning disqualification of legislators under The Representation of The People Act, 1951, the issue of criminalization of politics is still unresolved to a large extent in India. Discuss.

(250 words) 15

लोक प्रतिनिधित्व अधिनियम, 1951 के तहत विधायकों की निरर्हता से संबंधित विभिन्न प्रावधानों के बावजूद, भारत में राजनीति के अपराधीकरण का मुद्दा अभी भी काफी हद तक अनसुलझा है। विवेचना कीजिए।

The Representation of People Act (RPA), 1951 contains elaborate provisions on disqualification of legislators. The structural problems of Indian polity have allowed criminalization of politics.

Provisions in RPA, 1951

(i) Canditates and legislators who are convicted for sentence more than 2 years are disqualified for 6 years.

(ii) Canditates asking votes in the name of religion, region, caste are disqualified from election.

(iii) Canditates and legislators are not allowed to hold offices of profit after getting elected.

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(iv) Any wrong entry in the affidavit of candidate will lead to his disqualification

(v) Candidate with practices such as booth capture, fake voting etc. are disqualified from contesting.

Issue of criminalization still unresolved

① Politician-criminal nexus: Political parties, themselves, declare criminals as candidates due to the deep nexus.

② Money in elections: Due to huge over and under the table spending in elections, money is sourced from donations of criminals.

③ Corruption: Criminals and politicians undertake collusive corruption to meet self demands and election obligations resulting in criminalization

④ Weak enforcement of laws: Politicians

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prevent the bureaucracy from effectively enforcing the laws against criminals

⑤ Lack of political will : There is not a single party with the will to end criminalization of politics.

⑥ Legal delays : Court procedures are often delayed which delays or defers the disqualification of criminal legislators

⑦ Bureaucratic-politician nexus : Collusive corruption between these two leads to misgovernance which perpetuate criminalization of politics.

To remove criminal legislators, the 'political will' of political class must be mobilised. Else the situation will be in dire state

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

14. It is time for reforms, which recognise that urban local bodies (ULBs) need permanent, buoyant revenue sources to match the growing demands of an increasing urban population. Discuss. **(250 words) 15**

यह सुधारों का समय है जो यह पहचान करता है कि शहरी स्थानीय निकायों (ULBs) को बढ़ती शहरी आबादी की बढ़ती मांगों को पूरा करने के लिए स्थायी, वृद्धिशील राजस्व स्रोतों की आवश्यकता है। विवेचना कीजिए।

ULBs have faced funds crunch which results in ad hoc and unplanned urbanisation.

Demands of increasing urban population:

① Build social infrastructure in cities like drains, roads.

② Undertake planned urbanisation and stop growth of unregulated sub-urbs.

③ Provide basic facilities for the urban population

④ Maintain disaster resilience by strengthening storm drains etc.

⑤ Prevent growth of slums and provide sustainable housing.

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

Time for reforms:

① State Finance Commissions (SFCs): They must be mandatorily instituted to have proper financial devolution.

② Devolution from states: It must not be devolved in packets but as one lump sum amount to allow autonomy

③ Own resources: ULBs must make use of instruments like municipal bonds and other bonds to raise their resources.

④ Increase tax base: Entire tax base of taxes such as property tax must be taxed to realise revenue.

Eg. In Bengaluru, only 15% of tax base is taxed for property tax.

⑤ Monetise services: ULBs must monetise

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

services like water supply, waste collection in order to increase revenue.

⑥ Search for new sources: Taxes on hoardings, advertisements etc. must be levied to realise revenue.

⑦ Devolution from centre: Centre must not 'attach strings' to ULBs for its devolutions. Functional autonomy of ULBs must be preserved.

⑧ Pricing of infrastructure: Urban infrastructure must be truly priced and underpricing must be eliminated

It is essential for ULBs to have their own funds in order to undertake sustainable, true urbanisation to meet the needs of growing population.

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

15. The role of the civil society organisations (CSOs) in India is changing in contemporary times and has become increasingly more complex. Discuss.
(250 words) 15

समकालीन समय में भारत में नागरिक समाज संगठनों (CSOs) की भूमिका बदल रही है और निरंतर अधिक जटिल होती जा रही है। चर्चा कीजिए।

CSOs have played a key role in Indian society right from our independence but today's CSOs are complex in their working.

Role becoming more complex:

① Professionalisation: CSOs have become professional in their working which lead to fundamental changes in working.

② Attitude towards government: CSOs have come to be working with the government increasingly. CSOs are now more in co-ordination with the government than ever.

③ Changing nature of problems: CSOs are

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now taking up obscure problems in the society ~~too~~ that require them to be ~~dress~~ wear many hats.

Eg. CSOs advocating for LGBTQ rights are trying to bring awareness, behavioural change and attitudinal change.

④ New problems emerging: CSOs are taking up novel problems like climate change which requires them to play role of pressure groups, tend to the victims of climate disasters etc.

⑤ Trans-national role: CSOs are getting more and more foreign funding. Some CSOs have multiple branches like MNCs thus making their role trans-national.

Eg. Amnesty International
Oxfam

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⑥ Complexity of actions: The ~~interventions~~ interventions required in the society are getting increasingly complex resulting in formation of complex CSOs.

⑦ Novel methods of funding: With new methods of funding like social stock exchange emerging, CSOs are becoming like corporates with specialised departments.

⑧ Moving away from problem-specific CSOs: CSOs are turning to be universal rather than forming against specific problems. This makes their organisation complex.

CSOs play an important role in the society. However, professionalisation must not be profit-motive which defeats the purpose of CSOs

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

16. Though the Members of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme (MPLADS) aims to address the inequity in development in India, there are a number of issues which plague the scheme. Discuss. **(250 words) 15**
हालांकि संसद सदस्य स्थानीय क्षेत्र विकास योजना (एमपीएलएडीएस) का उद्देश्य भारत में विकास में असमता से निपटना है, लेकिन ऐसे कई मुद्दे हैं जो इस योजना को प्रभावित करते हैं। विवेचना कीजिए।

MPLADS is a scheme where each Parliamentarian is given money to spend on projects in his/her constituency.

Address inequity in development:

① Freedom to choose issue: An MP can choose a issue in his constituency to spend MPLADS. This will give him/her scope to have equal development.

② Address areas of deficit development: An MP can fund the areas of his constituency where he/she feels the government hasn't focussed enough.

③ Money to all MPs: By giving money to all MPs, it is made sure that

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

even backward areas are covered without any discrimination.

Issues plague the scheme:

① Against division of power: Giving a legislator executive power will result in transgression of division of powers.

② Misuse of funds: The funds are often not used by MPs in a just manner to truly attain the objective.
Eg. Instead of capital, durable assets, temporary works are done.

③ Corruption: MPLADS is used to give the contracts to relatives, friends thus leading to corruption.

④ Inefficient spending: Most of MPLADS funds are spent very inefficiently leading to waste of public funds.

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⑤ Lapse of funds : Since the funds get lapsed after financial year, much of funds return to government coffers unused.

⑥ Pending projects : A lot of the projects are pending due to slow disbursement of funds resulting in delays.

⑦ Lack of monitoring : There is no mechanism to efficiently monitor the execution and progress of this scheme.

As per 2nd ARC, it is advisable to stop the scheme of MPLADS. The structural and executional problems of this scheme lead to wastage of thousands of crores of public funds that can be put to better use.

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

17. Highlighting the factors responsible for the growth of EdTech sector in India in recent times, discuss its benefits. Also, state the concerns associated with it. (250 words) 15

हाल के दिनों में भारत में एडटेक क्षेत्रक के विकास के लिए उत्तरदायी कारकों पर प्रकाश डालते हुए, इसके लाभों पर चर्चा कीजिए। साथ ही, इससे जुड़ी चिंताओं का भी उल्लेख कीजिए।

EdTech (Education Technology) is the sector that uses technology like digital technology to impart education.

Eg. Byju's, ~~Unacad~~ Unacademy etc.

Factors for growth of EdTech

① COVID-19: The closure of schools due to pandemic has led to boost to the growth of EdTech to provide education at homes.

② Internet footprint: With advent of 4G and spread of internet footprint, demand for EdTech also increased.

③ Digital Literacy: With the increase of digital literacy in both parents and children, EdTech demand increases

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

④ Government support : Government supported EdTech in the recent times due to its benefits.
Eg. AP government MOU with Byjus to provide tabs to school students.

Benefits :

① Inclusive education : EdTech enables spread of education to rural, tribal areas thus making it inclusive.
② Quality of education : EdTech can ensure quality education is provided uniformly to all students.
③ Fill learning gap : EdTech ensures the gap between school learning and required learning is covered by providing additional information
④ Productive use of gadgets : EdTech ensures that gadgets are used productively.

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Concerns :

① False promises : Due to aggressive competition ~~made~~ many companies are making false promises.
Eg. White Hat Jr. teaching coding skills to 6yrs and 7yr old kids.

② Question over regulation : Education by EdTech companies is not regulated and quality is not monitored.

③ Education divide : It may create inequalities between students who can afford it and students who can't

④ Propel addiction : EdTech increases screentime of children and may propel addiction of gadgets

Unethical practices of EdTech can do more harm than good. It is essential to ensure quality practices in EDTECH.

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

18. Bring out the role of Accredited Social Health Activist (ASHA) workers in delivering health services in rural India. Also, suggest the measures that can be taken to overcome the challenges faced by them. **(250 words) 15**

ग्रामीण भारत में स्वास्थ्य सेवाएं प्रदान करने में मान्यता प्राप्त सामाजिक स्वास्थ्य कार्यकर्ता (आशा) की भूमिका पर प्रकाश डालिए। साथ ही, उनके द्वारा सामना की जाने वाली चुनौतियों को दूर करने के उपाय भी सुझाइए।

ASHA works are the healthcare workers that act as first point of contact in rural areas.

Role of ASHA workers:

① First responder: ASHA workers are the first responders to healthcare issues in rural areas

② Spread health literacy: ASHA workers spread health literacy in rural areas.

③ Ensure vaccinations: ASHA workers ensure that regular vaccinations are given to rural children.

④ Welfare of mother and child: ASHA workers ensure institutional deliveries and the

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

welfare of mother and child in deliveries

Challenges :

① Low honoranium : The monetary benefit to ASHA workers is very low to sustain their families

② Lack of capacity : Skill level in ASHA is not upto the required level making their work inefficient

③ Staffing concerns : Lack of adequate staff results in overburdening of one ASHA worker.

④ lack of infrastructure : ASHA workers carry on with bare minimum infrastructure resulting in poor quality of healthcare provided.

Measures :

① Thorough skilling : ASHA workers must

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

be imparted skills to undertake healthcare activities.

② Use of technology : Using technological advancements like mobile applications, Internet of Things will ensure efficiency in working

③ Proper remuneration : ASHA workers must be given proper remuneration according to their services.

④ Adequate recruitment : Adequate staff must be recruited to relieve the pressure off rest of the workers

⑤ Infrastructure : ASHA workers should be given proper infrastructure to meet the demands of rural healthcare

ASHA workers are the backbone of rural healthcare. It is inherent that we skill them adequately.

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

19. Discuss the various concerns that have arisen for India after the Taliban takeover of Afghanistan. Also, suggest the measures that India should take in the given context. **(250 words) 15**

तालिबान द्वारा अफगानिस्तान पर अधिकार करने के बाद भारत के लिए उत्पन्न विभिन्न चिंताओं की विवेचना कीजिए। साथ ही, उन उपायों का सुझाव दीजिए जो इस संदर्भ में भारत द्वारा अपनाए जाने चाहिए।

Taliban have takenover Kabul after the withdrawl of American troops prompting concerns in South Asia.

Concerns for India:

① Influence of Pakistan, China increases: Taliban rules will be more inclined to the influences of ISI and Beijing

② Erosion of our soft power: Indian initiatives like Parliament, trade corridor will take a hit

③ Harbour terrorism: Taliban rule can harbour anti-India terrorist elements that are detrimental to our national security.

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Eg. Haqqani being made a part of Taliban government.

④ Violation of human rights: Human rights of minorities and Indian sympathizers can be violated by Talibans.

⑤ Erosion of democracy: Hard earned democratic advances in the past two decades are lost due to Taliban rule.

⑥ Geopolitical fix: India was put in a lose-lose geopolitical situation with the takeover of Taliban.

Measures needed:

① Ensure food security: Supply wheat to Afghans to make sure hunger deaths are not happening.

② Engage with international powers: Make sure that world powers refrain from

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

recognising the Taliban rule as legitimate.

③ Engage with Taliban: India must start minimal engagement with Taliban to protect its interests.

④ Visa to vulnerable: India must grant e-Visas to minorities, vulnerable people to ensure their safety.

⑤ Flag human rights violations: Human rights atrocities of Taliban government must be flagged to prevent them

⑥ Put pressure on Taliban: Put and maintain international pressure on Taliban to prevent ostracization of girls, women.

India needs to play a pro-active role in safeguarding its interests and protect national security

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20. Bangladesh is not only a key part of India's "Neighbourhood First policy" but also crucial for the "Act East policy". In this context, discuss the steps taken by the two countries to strengthen their relationship.

(250 words) 15

बांग्लादेश न केवल भारत की "नेबरहुड फर्स्ट पॉलिसी" का एक महत्वपूर्ण हिस्सा है, बल्कि "एक्ट ईस्ट पॉलिसी" के लिए भी अत्यंत महत्वपूर्ण है। इस संदर्भ में, दोनों देशों द्वारा अपने संबंधों को मजबूत करने के लिए उठाए गए कदमों की विवेचना कीजिए।

India and Bangladesh have enjoyed stable relationship since the ascent of PM Shiek Hassina.

Steps to strengthen relationship * Neighbourhood First Policy

① BBIN connectivity network : This was done to enhance connectivity among the neighbourhood countries of Bhutan, Bangladesh, India, Nepal.

② Exchange of enclaves : In 2015, both the countries exchanged disputed enclaves and demarcated the border thoroughly.

③ Working group on water-sharing : Both sides formed working group on water sharing of Teesta rivers. Sharing formula

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for other rivers is also finalized

④ Expulsion of insurgents: Sheik Hasina unilaterally expelled insurgents using Bangladesh border

⑤ Maitri Setu: Bridge was constructed to improve trade relations and connectivity between the two countries

* Act East Policy:

① BIMSTEC: India and Bangladesh both are part of BIMSTEC which aims for a partnership between South Asia and ASEAN.

② Connectivity projects: India, Bangladesh, Myanmar have undertaken multi-modal connectivity projects using roads, Irawaddy river etc.

③ Support to North East: Bangladesh

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provided port access to North East and both countries also opened border Haats in Tripura - Bangladesh border.

④ Highway projects : India, Myanmar, Thailand trilateral highway project also attracted interest from Bangladesh to enhance connectivity.

India and Bangladesh have had productive partnership in the last few years. If few issues like water sharing, smuggling across the border are resolved, India and Bangladesh can form productive partnership that stands as an example to the region

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GENERAL STUDIES (TEST CODE : 1840)

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Medium Eng./Hindi	ENGLISH	Registration Number	996306
Center	DELHI	Date	11/9/22

INDEX TABLE

Q. No.	Maximum Marks	Marks Obtained
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2	10	
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11	15	
12	15	
13	15	
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16	15	
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18	15	
19	15	
20	15	

Total Marks Obtained:

Remarks:

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Do furnish the appropriate details in the answer sheet (viz. Name, Registration Number and Test Code).
   उत्तर पुस्तिका में सूचनाएं भरना आवश्यक है (नाम, प्रश्न–पत्र कोड, विद्यार्थी क्रमांक आदि)।
2. There are **TWENTY** questions printed in **ENGLISH & HINDI**
   इसमें बीस प्रश्न हैं अंग्रेजी और हिन्दी में छपे हैं।
3. **All questions are compulsory.**
   सभी प्रश्न अनिवार्य हैं।
4. The number of marks carried by a question/part is indicated against it.
   प्रत्येक प्रश्न/भाग के अंक उसके सामने दिए गए हैं।
5. Answers must be written in the medium authorized in the Admission Certificate, which must be stated clearly on the cover of this Question-Cum-Answer (QCA) Booklet in the space provided. No marks will be given for answers written in medium other that the authorized one.
   प्रश्नों के उत्तर उसी माध्यम में लिखे जाने चाहिए जिसका उल्लेख आपके प्रवेश पत्र में किया गया है और उस माध्यम का स्पष्ट उल्लेख प्रश्न–सह–उत्तर (क्यूसीए) पुस्तिका के मुख्य पृष्ठ पर अंकित निर्दिष्ट स्थान पर किया जाना चाहिए। उल्लिखित माध्यम के अतिरिक्त अन्य किसी माध्यम में लिए गए उत्तर पर कोई अंक नहीं मिलेंगे।
6. Word limit in questions, if specified, should be adhered to.
   प्रश्नों में शब्द सीमा, जहाँ विनिर्दिष्ट है, का अनुसरण किया जाना चाहिए।
7. Any page or portion of the page left blank in the Question-Cum-Answer Booklet must be clearly struck off.
   उत्तर पुस्तिका में खाली छोड़ा हुआ पृष्ठ या उसके अंश को स्पष्ट रूप से काटा जाना चाहिए।

EVALUATION INDICATORS

1. Contextual Competence
2. Content Competence
3. Language Competence
4. Introduction Competence
5. Structure - Presentation Competence
6. Conclusion Competence

Overall Macro Comments / feedback / suggestions on Answer Booklet:

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

All the Best

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

1. While fixed-term employment offers an ingenious way to address specific issues faced by both employers and employees, there are also some concerns associated with it. Discuss in the context of India.

(150 words) 10

हालांकि, नियत अवधि का रोजगार (फिक्स्ड टर्म एम्प्लॉयमेंट) नियोक्ताओं और कर्मचारियों दोनों के द्वारा सामना किए जाने वाले विशिष्ट मुद्दों को हल करने का एक सरल तरीका प्रदान करता है, लेकिन इसके साथ कुछ चिंताएं भी जुड़ी हुई हैं। भारत के संदर्भ में चर्चा कीजिए।

Fixed-term employment or contractual employment is where the employer offer the employee the job only for a fixed period mentioned in the contract.

Way to address issues:

① Investor friendly : Fixed-term employment is investor friendly which leads to attracting more capital

② Free labour market : It makes the labour market free and flexible thus increasing the market efficiency.

③ Meet seasonalities : It allows industries to meet seasonal requirements, exigencies

④ Suitable for MSMEs : Smaller industries

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which can't commit to the longer term employment can make use of this.

Concerns associated:

① Exploitative: Such contracts may be exploited by bigger players with whom employees can't fight

② Regular renewal: Employers may renew the contracts regularly making him/her a de facto permanent employee but denying him the benefits

③ No job security: This will promote 'hire & fire' culture in industries which will erode job security in the economy.

Fixed-term employment can encourage growth of industries. Essential safeguards must be placed in order to prevent it from being exploitatory

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2. An efficient logistics sector with a focus on warehousing is pivotal to the success of the Bharatmala Pariyojana. Discuss. **(150 words) 10**
वेयरहाउसिंग पर केंद्रित एक कुशल लॉजिस्टिक्स क्षेत्रक भारतमाला परियोजना की सफलता के लिए महत्वपूर्ण है। विवेचना कीजिए।

India spends 14% of GDP on logistics whereas countries like China spend only 7-8%. This points to need of efficient logistics sector.

Efficient logistics sector:

① Reduce costs: Cheaper transport is essential for the success of Bharatamala yojana as infrastructure can be used efficiently.

② More usage: With efficient logistics sector, more usage of infrastructure will be made under Bharatamala yojana.

③ Multi modal mix: Effective logistics is needed to make use of multi-modal connectivity under this scheme.

④ Reduce delays: Currently, logistics face huge

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

delays. This will result in less productive use of Bharatamala infrastructure.

③ Last mile connectivity: Efficient logistics sector can only realise Bharatamala's objective of having last mile connectivity.

Focus on warehousing:

① Create supply chains: Warehousing will itself create supply chains that will make efficient use of Bharatamala.

② Reduce burden: Lack of warehousing will overburden logistics sector.

③ Endurance: Warehousing will give high endurance to transporting of goods

④ Clear bottlenecks: Warehouses are the bottlenecks in Indian logistics sector.

Focus on logistics and infrastructure will lead to efficient and effective use of Bharatamala scheme.

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

3. What do you understand by the term 'irrigation scheduling'? Bringing out the advantages provided by it, discuss the difficulties faced in applying it on a farm level. **(150 words) 10**

'सिंचाई निर्धारण (इरिगेशन शेड्यूलिंग)' पद से आप क्या समझते हैं? इसके द्वारा उपलब्ध कराये गए लाभों का वर्णन करते हुए, इसे खेत स्तर पर लागू करने के समक्ष आने वाली कठिनाइयों की विवेचना कीजिए।

Irrigation scheduling is creating a timeline and schedule of which farms are irrigated at what time of the day, month and year.

Advantages :

① Resource use efficiency : It will lead to efficient use of stressed resource like water

② Regional equity : Equitable distribution of water can be achieved through scheduling.

③ Prevent ground water depletion : Ground water can be saved with scheduling irrigation

④ Increase irrigation footprint : Currently

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only 35% of net sown area is irrigated, with scheduling this can reach 55-60%.

Difficulties:

① Enforcability: It is difficult to enforce schedule over millions of small farmers

② Awareness: It is difficult to spread awareness and information to different farmers over scheduling.

③ Can't stop drawing water: It is difficult to monitor and stop drawing water by farmers over thousands of drawing points.

④ Political compulsions: Irrigation is a sensitive issue. Political sensitivities may prevent on-ground application.

It is necessary to create a consensus before going ahead with such an ambitious programme.

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4. While the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana was touted as the largest crop insurance scheme globally in terms of farmer participation, various concerns have arisen since its implementation. Discuss. **(150 words) 10**

यद्यपि, प्रधान मंत्री फसल बीमा योजना को किसानों की भागीदारी के संदर्भ में वैश्विक स्तर पर सबसे बड़ी फसल बीमा योजना बताया गया था, तथापि इसके कार्यान्वयन के बाद कई चिंताएं उत्पन्न हुई हैं। चर्चा कीजिए।

PM Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) is touted to be the gamechanger in the agricultural sector especially in managing risk.

Largest crop insurance scheme.

(i) Almost all the farmers of India participate in PM FBY to mitigate risks.

(ii) This scheme allows farmers to undertake ambitious and novel methods of agriculture.

(iii) This scheme provides risk resilience to farming community especially in the wake of climate disasters.

Concerns:

① Lack of expertise: FBY needs expertise in calculation of potential crops, risks in

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order to fix premium and compensation.

② Higher premiums: Due to greater chance of risks, premium amount for PM FBY is high causing financial burden.

③ Risks covered: Not all the risks are covered and it is contingent on farmers to select the list of risks.

④ Lack of data: The data required for insurance companies to calculate costs, risks is absent

⑤ Too high risk amount: The amount of risk combined for all farmers is too high putting many insurance companies out of option.

PM-FBY is an ambitious and necessary initiative. With good capacity building in insurance sector, this scheme can see a great success

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5. The Stockholm Conference commenced the contemporary "environmental era", which brought a paradigm shift in the environmental governance and set a tone for multi-lateral environmental regime. Discuss. **(150 words) 10**

स्टॉकहोम कॉन्फ्रेंस ने समकालीन "पर्यावरण युग" की शुरुआत की, जो पर्यावरणीय गवर्नेंस में एक आदर्श बदलाव लाया और उसने बहु-आयामी पर्यावरणीय व्यवस्था के लिए एक दिशा प्रदान की। विवेचना कीजिए।

Stockholm Conference of 1972 is the first conference participated by ~~the~~ most of the countries underlining environment and climate change as the most important issues.

Contemporary 'environment era':

(i) This Conference underlined the need to focus on environment for the first time.

(ii) This conference brought focus on climate change and the need to take urgent measures to mitigate it.

(iii) This conference brought world attention on issues of ecological damage due to

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anthropogenic activities.

Paradigm shift :

(i) United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) was first instituted in this conference which now is a key player in climate change fight.

(ii) This conference serves as precursor to the Rio conference of 1991 which led to the establishment of UNFCCC.

(iii) This conference realised that developed countries must take urgent measures to save the world from climate change

(iv) Foundations for a thorough rule-based order on climate emissions control were laid in this conference.

Stockholm Conference +50 was recently conducted to celebrate 50 years of 1972 conference and reiterate those goals.

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6. The world has witnessed a huge surge in climate-induced disasters, which are largely driven by anthropogenic factors. In this context, analyse the role of early warning systems in mitigating the impact of the disasters.
(150 words) 10

विश्व में जलवायु-प्रेरित आपदाओं में अत्यधिक वृद्धि हुई है, जो बड़े पैमाने पर मानवजनित कारकों से प्रेरित हैं। इस संदर्भ में, आपदाओं के प्रभाव के शमन में पूर्व चेतावनी प्रणालियों की भूमिका का विश्लेषण कीजिए।

Early warning systems are the systems which warn on the impending disasters and prepare society for the disaster.

Mitigate impact of disaster :

① Give lead time : Early Warning Systems (EWS) give lead time to response forces to undertake relevant measures.

② Risk reduction : EWS give time to evacuate people, reduce risk and prevent heavy impact of disaster.

③ Impact-based forecasting : EWS can help in impact-based forecasting which will give better idea to response forces.

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④ Mobilise men and equipment: EWS gives time to mobilise forces and the equipment needed to fight the disasters

⑤ Awareness and warning: EWS give scope to warn people and make them aware of the impending impact of disaster.

⑥ Informed decision making: EWS can lead to informed decision making by the government thus leading to productive efforts.

⑦ Scope for planned response: EWS gives the scope to plan the disaster response and implement it on the ground effectively.

EWS are essential due to the sudden and violent nature of disasters due to climate change.

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7. Critically examine the implications of leveraging technology in policing. (150 words) 10

पुलिस व्यवस्था (पुलिसिंग) में प्रौद्योगिकी का लाभ उठाने के निहितार्थों का समालोचनात्मक परीक्षण कीजिए।

Leveraging technology is the use of technology in policing to make it effective and efficiency.

Advantages :

① Reduce burden : Technology will ease burden over understaffed police

② Increase capacity: It will infuse expertise into police making them effective.

③ Meet new age threats : Technology will help police meet the crimes of modern age Eg. Cyberdome to fight cyberthreats.

Disadvantages :

① Privacy concerns : Privacy of citizens may not be respected leading to violation

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of constitutionally provided rights.

② Blatant misuse : Technology can be misused for personal gains
Eg. Tracking mobile numbers of friends, relatives etc.

③ Political targeting : Technology can be used to target political rivals by using policing techniques.
Eg. Facial recognition used to track political rivals

④ Spying on citizens : Technology can be used to spy on the citizens thus creating an authoritarian state

Use of technology is essential to make policing efficient and effective. However, the use of technologies must uphold 'rule of law'.

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8. How far do you agree with the view that climate change poses a threat to international peace and security? (150 words) 10

आप इस विचार से कहाँ तक सहमत हैं कि जलवायु परिवर्तन अंतर्राष्ट्रीय शांति और सुरक्षा के लिए खतरा है?

Climate change has severe socio-economic effects on the world. These create threats to international peace.

Threat to peace and security

① Resource stress: Climate change is straining resources. This scarcity may cause threat to international peace
Eg. Fight for water between Egypt & Ethiopia

② Climate refugees: Climate refugees caused by climate change can trigger political crisis across the world.

③ Concern over responsibilities: Huge tension between developing and developed countries over climate responsibilities is a big threat.

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⑦ Changing geopolity: Climate change is leading to new sea routes, areas for resource exploration leading to geopolitical tensions.

⑧ Varied impact: Climate change is not uniform in impact. This may cause tensions between various countries.

⑨ Disjointed efforts: The disjointed nature of efforts may ~~tay~~ lead to friction between various countries leading to a threat for world peace

⑩ Terrorism: Terrorists can take advantage of disasters like sea-level rise in order to establish new safe havens.

SDG-17 must be realised to have ~~[illegible]~~ a impartful fight towards climate change

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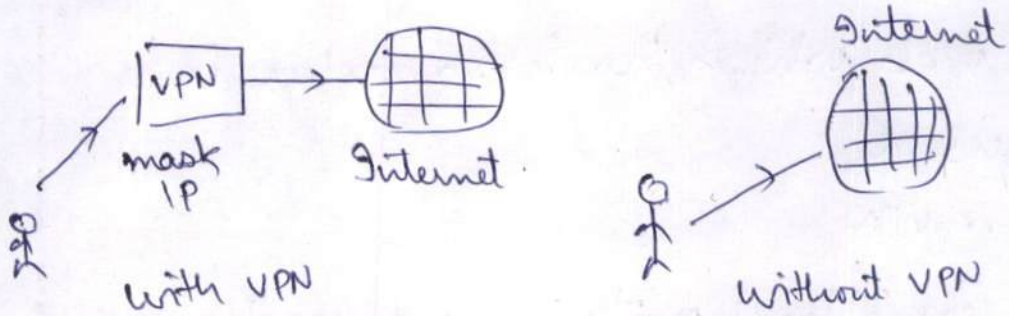
(इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

9. What do you understand by a virtual private network (VPN)? Highlight its advantages and discuss the concerns posed by it. **(150 words) 10**
वर्चुअल प्राइवेट नेटवर्क (VPN) से आप क्या समझते हैं? इसके लाभों पर प्रकाश डालिए और इससे उत्पन्न चिंताओं पर चर्चा कीजिए।

VPN is a private network created that gives anonymity to the user of internet by masking his/her IP address.



Advantages:

① Anonymity: VPN gives anonymity to the user thus protecting his/her privacy on the internet.

② Access deep web: VPN allows users to access deep web content from a different geographic location.

Eg. IIT Guwahati gives access to its Intranet for its students, faculties through VPN

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③ Access content from other nations: With VPN one can access content of other nations by masking the IP to that of other countries.

Concerns:

① Dark web: VPN can give access to dark web which hosts smugglers, drug peddlers etc.
Eg. Torr VPN

② Access illegal material: VPN can lead to accessing illegal content like pornography anonymously.

③ Work around country restrictions: VPN can work around restrictions posed by a country leading to loopholes

④ Unauthorised usage: It can be used by non-state actors to anonymously undertake anti-social activities.

VPN is a double-edged sword in internet access.

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10. The discovery of the Higgs Boson at the Large Hadron Collider in CERN completed 10 years recently. In this context, discuss the role played by CERN in overall scientific development. **(150 words) 10**

सर्न (CERN) स्थित लार्ज हैड्रॉन कोलाइडर में हिग्स बोसोन की खोज को हाल ही में 10 वर्ष पूरे हो गए हैं। इस संदर्भ में, समग्र वैज्ञानिक विकास में सर्न द्वारा निभाई गई भूमिका पर चर्चा कीजिए।

CERN in Switzerland has been on the topmost laboratories for scientific experiments across the world.

Role played by CERN :

① House infrastructure : CERN houses state-of-the-art infrastructure for the conduct of scientific experiments.
Eg. Large Hadron Collider (LHC)

② Experiments : CERN undertakes huge, ambitious experiments on particulate and quantum physics
Eg. Higgs Boson confirmation was due to the work of CERN

③ Expert Scientists : CERN is home to

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scientists of great expertise from all over the world thus leading to scientific discourse.

④ Robust procedures: CERN follows robust procedures to validate experiments leading to scientific development.

⑤ Rare laboratories: CERN houses rare laboratories of huge sizes that makes it one of the very few scientific areas with such facilities.

CERN is important in scientific development which is evident from the number of Nobel Prizes that scientists from CERN have achieved. It is the apex institution in scientific facilities and probably only such institution to have them.

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11. Highlighting the factors that affect the cropping pattern in India, discuss the need for modifying it in the context of the emerging agro-ecological concerns. **(250 words) 15**

भारत में फसल पद्धति को प्रभावित करने वाले कारकों पर प्रकाश डालते हुए, उभरती कृषि-पारिस्थितिकी चिंताओं के संदर्भ में इसे संशोधित करने की आवश्यकता पर चर्चा कीजिए।

Cropping pattern is the pattern of how and what crops are sown in what seasons on the field.

Factors affecting cropping patterns:

① MSP regime: Minimum Support Price (MSP) has affected, drastically, the cropping pattern. The entire agriculture became highly skewed towards rice-wheat system

② Green Revolution: This made many of crops to get substituted to rice or wheat.

③ Irrigation: This led to growing of water-intensive crops in low rainfall areas

Eg. Rice in Punjab, Sugarcane in UP, Bihar

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④ Market access: lack of markets for pulses have resulted in substitution of pulses with rice or wheat.

⑤ Subsidies: With higher subsidies, farmers are undertaking HYV varieties of crops away from organic farming.

Need to modify:

① Ecological damage: Monoculture has resulted in excess use of fertilizers causing damage to nearby ecosystems. Eg. Eutrophication of water bodies

② Land degradation: Use of fertilizers has resulted in degradation of land causing salination and acidification

③ Water stress: Irrigation has caused water stress and loss of ground water Eg. Punjab

④ Nutritional security: Focus on rice, wheat

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has resulted in import of pulses thus putting nutritional security in danger.

⑤ Future food security: Land degradation, water stress can effect future food security of the country.

⑥ lack of sustainability: Current crop patterns are extremely unsustainable and may cause potential agricultural crisis in future.

⑦ lack of climate resilence: Cropping patterns of India are artificial making them vulnerable to climate disasters

It is essential to slowly nudge agriculture towards climate-resilient, sustainable cropping patterns to make it future-ready.

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12. While the budgetary reforms undertaken by the Central government in recent years have led to better management of government expenditure, there are some issues that still need redressal. Discuss. **(250 words) 15**

जहाँ हाल के वर्षों में, केंद्र सरकार द्वारा किए गए बजटीय सुधारों के कारण सरकारी व्यय का बेहतर प्रबंधन संभव हुआ है, वहीं कुछ ऐसे भी मुद्दे विद्यमान हैं जिनका समाधान किया जाना अभी बाकी है। विवेचना कीजिए।

Budgetary reforms are the reforms in government budgeting methods and procedures that pave way for effective fiscal management.

Better management :

(i) Until before COVID-19, India's fiscal deficit was on the way to targeted 3% of GDP.

(ii) Outcome based budgeting has made the expenditure effective and efficient.

(iii) Renewed focus on gender budgeting has resulted in gender equity in the expenditure.

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(iv) Counter cyclical fiscal policy has led to arresting of economic slowdown pre-COVID

Issues still need redressal:

(i) India's debt-to-GDP ratio is still higher than the targeted range of 30-35%.

(ii) The revenue deficit is still very high. The target of narrowing down the revenue deficit to zero feels like impossible task

(iii) Lack of ambitious capital expenditure is also a concern as it doesn't propel economic boost.

(iv) The targets for disinvestment have not been adequately met for past years.

(v) Zero-based budgeting is not applied

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in letter and spirit making it a redundant exercise.

(vi) Tax buoyancy of the economy is still a concern as tax revenue to GDP is stagnated and is lesser than many ASEAN countries.

(vii) Majority of capex is still driven by states and not Centre despite huge opportunity to increase it.

(viii) Fiscal deficit after COVID-19 has been over 6%. thus leading to concerns of debt sustainability.

Fiscal discipline is essential to manage the economy sustainably. Ironing out the above issues is essential to bring fiscal stability and efficiency.

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13. For India to create a 'future ready' railway system, it must harness innovation and resource efficiency. Discuss the statement in the context of the measures enlisted in the National Rail Plan 2030. **(250 words) 15**

भारत को 'फ्यूचर रेडी' रेलवे प्रणाली के सृजन हेतु, नवाचार और संसाधन दक्षता का उपयोग करना चाहिए। राष्ट्रीय रेल योजना 2030 में सूचीबद्ध उपायों के संदर्भ में इस कथन की विवेचना कीजिए।

India has the 4th highest railway network in the world but it is riddled with many inefficiencies.

Measures in National Rail Plan 2030:

(i) Electrification of all railway lines
(ii) Phasing out of diesel locomotives
(iii) Bring new age locomotives to handle freight trains.
(iv) Expand the dedicated freight corridor (DFC) network for goods movements.

Harness innovation & resource efficiency

(i) Indian railways need to phase out the inefficient, polluting locomotives to make it climate-friendly.

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(ii) Innovative methods to attract and retain passenger traffic must be brought.

Eg. Vistadome coaches for scenic routes.

(iii) Railways must be punctual and offer amenities to meet the needs of passengers.

Eg. Tejas Express by IRCTC

(iv) Railways must leave the monopolistic inefficiencies and focus on maintaining sustainable use of resources

(v) Railways have high freight costs. To have sustainable, non-coal freight revenue, it must adopt efficient methods.

(vi) Railways need to shed the inertia to change. It must adopt

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new-age methods and initiatives to address problems.

(vii) Railways must focus on achieving net-zero as soon as possible to comply to climate commitments of India.

Such a huge institution will inherently have inertia to change as quickly as the market or consumers need. To be future-ready, railways must undertake innovations and cut the inefficiencies. The operating costs must be reduced to induce sustainability.

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14. Discuss the significance of technology in the Indian agricultural sector. Also, state the challenges in realising its potential to improve agricultural efficiency and increase the income of the farmers. **(250 words) 15**

भारतीय कृषि क्षेत्रक में प्रौद्योगिकी के महत्व पर चर्चा कीजिए। साथ ही, कृषि दक्षता में सुधार और किसानों की आय बढ़ाने की इसकी क्षमता का उपयोग करने में आने वाली चुनौतियों का भी उल्लेख कीजिए।

Technology plays a key role in increasing the efficiency of agriculture making it ready for the needs of 21st century.

Importance of technology:

① Efficient application of fertilizers: Technology can aid effective, efficient application of fertilizers
Eg. Liquid Nano Urea (LNU)

② Reduce water stress: Novel irrigation methods can reduce water usage.
Eg. Drip irrigation methods

③ Increase productivity: Mechanisation of farming will drastically increase productivity.

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④ Reduce climate emissions: Scientific interventions can reduce instances like stubble burning
Eg. PUSA decomposer.

⑤ Soil health: Technology can help in monitoring soil health and undertake requisite modifications.

⑥ Livestock monitoring: Scientific devices can used to monitor the health and status of livestock.
Eg. Earclips to monitor health of cows.

Challenges in realising potential:

~~① Lack of farm to lab~~

① Lack of lab-to farm chains: Supporting chains from lab to farm are absent.

② Less funding in research: Agricultural funding is limited in research thus depriving innovation.

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③ Lack of expertise : There is lack of expertise in areas of agricultural technology.

④ Weak agri-start up ecosystem : The agricultural entrepreneurship ecosystem is very weak and unproven.

⑤ Weak IPR : Due to weak IP regime, investment from MNCs on innovations is lacking.

⑥ Lack of private participation : strict regulations, markets have restricted private participation which in turn led to less infusion of technology.

Technological developments have the potential to increase the productivity of agriculture and relase the stagnated farm incomes. Investment in R&D is a sine qua non for it.

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15. Despite the digital transformation in the Public Distribution System (PDS) in India, several challenges still remain. Elaborate. Also, suggest measures to address them. **(250 words) 15**

भारत में सार्वजनिक वितरण प्रणाली (PDS) में डिजिटल रूपांतरण के बावजूद, अभी भी अनेक चुनौतियां विद्यमान हैं। सविस्तार वर्णन कीजिए। साथ ही, इनके समाधान हेतु उपायों का सुझाव दीजिए।

PDS is the system through which India distributes its food grains to the poorest and the needy protecting its food security.

Digital Transformations
- → Use of biometric authentication
- → Mandate Aadhar
- → Portability of ration

Several challenges remain:

① Inclusion error: Even though a family is no longer poor, it is not excluded from PDS as the 'white ration card' is permanent.

② Exclusion error: Many communities do not have Aadhar card, biometric data entries to receive ration

Eg. Tribals of North Andhra are denied ration.

Don't write anything this margin (इस भाग में कुछ ना लिखें)

③ Leakages in service delivery: There are acute, chronic leakages in service delivery where ration shops siphon off the food grains.

④ Unsustainability: The financial cost of PDS as per NFSA, 2013 is very unsustainable causing huge burden to the government.

⑤ Overflowing granaries: The granaries of FCI are extremely overburdened despite elaborate PDS.

Measures to address them

① Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT): This can be undertaken to prevent the leakages of food grain and use resources efficiently

Eg. It is estimated that government spends ₹3.5 to give ₹1 benefit through PDS.

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② End-to-End digitization: From FCI granaries to ration shops, everything must be ditized.

③ Use of technologies: Blockchain can be used to make the service delivery resilient and prevent leakages

④ Portable ration cards: All the states must come together to make ration cards portable to integrate PDS all over the country.

⑤ Rationalise NFSA, 2013: The amount of people eligible must be rationalized to allow fiscal room to the government.

It is essential to adopt novel ways of PDS to make it efficient, effective and prevent any corruption in delivery.

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16. Discuss the various concerns that exist with regard to fuel efficiency regulations for vehicles in India. Also, suggest the measures that can be taken in this regard. **(250 words) 15**

भारत में वाहनों के लिए ईंधन दक्षता विनियमों के संबंध में विद्यमान विभिन्न चिंताओं पर चर्चा कीजिए। साथ ही, इस संदर्भ में किए जा सकने वाले उपायों का भी सुझाव दीजिए।

Fuel efficiency regulations (Bharat ~~regulations~~ Standard) are the engine regulations for vehicle makers to adhere to. Currently, we are in BS VI standard.

Concerns:

① Big leap - India leapt from BSIV to BS VI putting huge pressure on the manufacturers.

② Expensive: BSVI norms are expensive making the vehicles costlier.

③ Less research: There is very less research going on to have a smooth shift towards newer regulations

④ Not upto standard: Comparision with

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Euro standards like Euro VI has been that Indian regulations are still not upto the standard.

Measures :

① Discussions with industry : Thorough discussions must be made with industry to have consensus on regulations.

② Long-term planning : Plan of regulations for the next 15-20 years must be done to give ~~idea~~ idea to the manufacturers

③ Industry-academia linkage : Industry must be encouraged to freely interact with academic institutions to increase research.

④ At level with international standards : Indian regulations must be brought at par with international vehicular

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emission standards

⑤ Promote research: Research on sustainable fuels, less polluting engines must be encouraged to help the industry.

⑥ Increase intra-industry linkages: By fostering co-operation within the industry concerns of cost, research can be eliminated.

Vehicular fuel efficiency regulations are needed to slowly accelerate the climate fight. However, these regulations must be achievable and acceptable for all.

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17. Urban fire is becoming a serious cause of concern in Indian cities. In this context, highlight the major causes behind urban fires in India. What steps can be taken to build robust fire resilience in Indian cities? **(250 words) 15**

शहरी आग (अर्बन फायर) भारतीय शहरों में चिंता का एक गंभीर कारण बनती जा रही है। इस संदर्भ में, भारत में शहरी आग के प्रमुख कारणों पर प्रकाश डालिए। भारतीय शहरों में मजबूत अग्नि रोधी क्षमता के निर्माण हेतु क्या कदम उठाए जा सकते हैं?

Urban fires are fire accidents in urban buildings and places leading to loss of lives and property.

Causes :

① Poor regulatory enforcement : Regulations on fire safety, smoke detectors are seldom enforced.

② Poor construction methods : Construction quality, design is very low quality leading to fires, collapses etc.

③ Illegal storage : Illegal storing of firecrackers, flamable items lead to urban fires.

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④ Mismanagement : By staff of certain establishments leads to urban fires
Eg. Fire in a hotel in Vijayawada as sanitizer was sprayed on switchboards.

⑤ Use of flamable material : Using flamable wood, ply for construction leads to urban fires.

Steps needs :

① Stringent norms : Robust fire safety norms must be instituted in the building code.

② Regular inspections : Surprise, regular inspections must be done to check fire safety in big buildings.

③ Mock drills : Frequent drills on fire safety must be conducted in schools, malls, theatres to ensure awareness.

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④ Regulation of materials: Certain highly inflamable materials must be blacklisted from using as building material.

⑤ Standardisation of fire safety: Tools, implements, equipments of fire safety must be standardised.

⑥ Fire safety audits: Audits of older buildings must be undertaken to ensure that vulnerabilities are known

⑦ Codifying of safety norms: Across the country, safety norms must be codified and uniform

It is necessary to undertake honest inspections by officials to ensure fire safety in urban centres.

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18. Drones in border areas present a serious threat for border management in India. Elaborate. Also, discuss the different measures taken to regulate the use of drones in India. **(250 words) 15**

सीमावर्ती क्षेत्रों में ड्रोन, भारत में सीमा प्रबंधन के समक्ष एक गंभीर खतरा उत्पन्न करते हैं। सविस्तार वर्णन कीजिए। साथ ही, भारत में ड्रोन के उपयोग को विनियमित करने के लिए किए गए विभिन्न उपायों पर चर्चा कीजिए।

Drones are remotely-controlled, unmanned aircrafts that can cause potential damage to border areas.

Serious threat :

① Weapon delivery : Drones can be used to deliver weapons across the border without involvement of men.

② Drug trafficking : Drones can be used to deliver packets of drugs across the border.

③ Facilitate infiltrations : Drones can analyze the border, find vulnerabilities which can lead to infiltration

④ Reconaissance flights : Drone can be used

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for ~~searching~~ reconing, spying the border for larger attacks

⑤ Use for attacks: Drones itself can be used to undertake larger, power attacks by controlling them remotely.

⑥ Escape eye of military: how flying drones are difficult to detect in radars making it easy to fly them.

⑦ Anonymous: Drones are flown remotely and anonymously making it difficult to trace them to culprits.

Measures taken:

① Radars to detect drones: Army has installed radars and air defence systems to detect drones flying over the border.

② Rules of drone usage: The government has released the rules, regulations

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of usage of drones as per their weight

2.1) Different zones: green, yellow, red are marked to regulate the flying of drones.

2.2) Permission system for drones has been liberalised with micro, nano drones needing no permission to fly.

2.3) Restricted zones were marked where drones can't be flown.

Eg. airports, military installations

Drones provide a novel threat to internal security of India. There is a need to build capacity in the forces to effectively fight the threat of drones in India.

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19. Despite a global framework to prevent weaponization of space, it has been increasing in the recent times. Discuss. Also, give an account of the implications of space weaponization. **(250 words) 15**

अंतरिक्ष के शस्त्रीकरण को रोकने के लिए एक वैश्विक ढांचा होने के बावजूद, हाल के दिनों में इसमें वृद्धि हुई है। चर्चा कीजिए। साथ ही, अंतरिक्ष के शस्त्रीकरण के निहितार्थों का विवरण दीजिए।

Weaponization of space is using space to either store weapons or using weapons to attack assets in space like satellites. Global Framework is present in the form of Outer Space Treaty.

Increasing in recent times:

(i) Countries are getting insecure over their capabilities thus leading to space weaponisation.

Eg. India tested anti-satellite missile

(ii) Global tensions are giving rise to a new arms race especially in the space sector.

(iii) Countries have realised the potential

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of space weaponisation. They want to be safe from adversaries.

(ii) Space technology has seen rapid development lately which automatically increased potential for space weaponisation.

Implications:

① Space Nuclearisation: Storing nuclear weapons in space and using nuclear weapons in space will be a result.

② Upset global order: Countries with space weaponisations abilities will become powerful upsetting global order.

③ Trigger arms race: This will trigger race for developing best space weapons

④ Endanger space technology: Satellites, space stations will be endangered due to activities of weapons.

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⑤ Threat to global peace: It will lead to erosion of global peace due to distrust between various nations.

⑥ Irrelevance of international institutions: International agreements, bodies like CTBT, NPT will become irrelevant.

⑦ Lack of regulated area: Space weapons come in a gray area of regulations as normal regulations do not apply in space.

It is essential to reach international consensus to arrest space weaponisation before it triggers catastrophes. United Nations must lead the initiative and allow only peaceful use of space.

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20. What do you understand by a bio-economy? Highlight the role that the National Biotechnology Development Strategy 2021-2025 can play in creating a robust bio-economy in India. **(250 words) 15**

बायो-इकोनॉमी (जैव-अर्थव्यवस्था) से आप क्या समझते हैं? भारत में एक मजबूत बायो-इकोनॉमी के सृजन में राष्ट्रीय जैव प्रौद्योगिकी विकास रणनीति 2021-2025 द्वारा निभाई जा सकने वाली भूमिका पर प्रकाश डालिए।

Bio-economy is the economy created by biotechnological advances and methods across different sectors.

Eg. bio-fuels, bio-devices etc.

Role played by National Biotechnology Strategy 2021-25

① Foster innovation: This strategy allows for innovation in bio-technology helping bio-economy.

② Encourage research: This strategy helps in boosting research in bio-technology which inturn leads to robust bio-economy.

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③ Industry-academia linkage : Quick adoption of bio-tech advancements is possible by this strategy.

④ Create ecosystem : Bio-tech ecosystem is created to aid advancements in bio-technology and boost bio-economy.

⑤ Infusion of funds : Funding and capital is infused into bio-tech research in India.

⑥ Establish support system : The support system needed to develop bio-technology is established to foster bio-economy.

⑦ Encourage entrepreneurship : This strategy encourages bio-tech start ups which foster bio-economy in the ~~industry~~ country.

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⑧ Attract foreign investment: This strategy aids the sector to attract foreign investment to aid bio-tech development.

⑨ Establish lab-to-farm chains: To aid in quick adoption of bio-tech advances, adoptions chains are established.

⑩ Create expertise: By focussing on human capital in bio-tech sector, this strategy focuses on ~~seed~~ robust growth in bio-economy.

Bio-technology is important to achieve climate-resilience in the economy. Hence, this strategy comes at an opportune time to boost the growth of bio-economy in India